

11. (Not Amended Herein) An image forming method comprising the steps of forming an image on the ink-receiving layer of the ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1 or 2 by ink-jet and coating said ink-receiving layer with the transparent film layer by heating.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the only independent claim. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are amended herein to improve their form without narrowing their scope. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement made by telephone on September 18, 2002, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I (Claims 1-9).

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims include common features. It is noted that Claims 10 and 11 each depend from Claim 1 or 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims should be examined together.

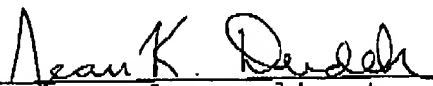
It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims could be searched by one Examiner without undue effort. It is also respectfully submitted that it is not mandatory to make a restriction requirement in every possible situation.

It is believed that if one Examiner acts on all of the claims of the present application at one time, overall examining time will be less than if two or more Examiners are involved. It

is also earnestly believed that the examination of all of the claims at one time by one examiner in the present application will best ensure uniform prosecution quality. Therefore, in the interest of prosecution economy of time and quality for both the Office and Applicant, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawal of the restriction requirement in this application and examination of all pending claims on their merits are appropriate and such action is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Amended) An ink-jet recording medium, comprising a base sheet and an ink-receiving layer on the base sheet, for use in an ink-jet image forming method in which a transparent film layer formed on a substrate as coating is placed on [an] the ink-receiving layer on which recording has been conducted [of said recording medium], and then the side of said substrate is heated to transfer said transparent film layer on said ink-receiving layer, followed by peeling off said substrate to laminate said transparent film layer on the surface of said ink receiving layer, said ink-receiving layer containing polyvinyl alcohol and a cross-linking agent.

2. (Amended) The ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the content of said polyvinyl alcohol in said ink-receiving layer is not lower than 30 [mass] weight %.

4. (Amended) The ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said cross-linking agent is an isocyanate [type] compound.

5. (Amended) The ink-jet recording medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said [cross-link] cross-linking agent is an epoxy [type] compound.

7. (Amended) The ink-jet recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said porous inorganic particles are [those of] silica.